

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 118150
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY: IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY: IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:MLINO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 6213

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118150

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 7294 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LUSAKA
09 MAY 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07294

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO OWEN

REF: STATE 117300

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DELIVERED SECRETARY'S LETTER TO
JOHNNY GRAHAM MORNING OF MAY 9. GRAHAM SAID OWEN
SHARED THE SECRETARY'S DESIRE TO DEVELOP TERMS OF
REFERENCE FOR THE GRAHAM/LOW MISSION. OWEN HAS CALLED
FOR "PRECISION" IN THE TERMS SO THAT THE MISSION
COULD ENGAGE IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS. GRAHAM IS
DRAFTING A PIECE NOW WHICH HE WILL GIVE TO US WHEN IT
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HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. COMMENT: GRAHAM DID NOT DISGUISE HIS OWN FRUSTRA-
TION IN ATTEMPTING TO DRAFT A DETAILED PLAN FOR HIS
FORTHCOMING TRIP. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE PROSPECTS
ARE BRIGHT FOR SERIOUS TALKS EITHER IN SALISBURY OR
WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS. FOR THE MOMENT,

NEITHER SIDE SENSES SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO COMPROMISE
ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES.

3. ONE FURTHER NOTE - - GRAHAM INDICATED THAT OWEN IS
GIVING STRONG CONSIDERATION TO VARIOUS FORMULAS FOR
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL WHICH WOULD SUBSTITUTE A "NEUTRAL
CHAIRMAN" FOR THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, BELIEVING THAT
THE REINTRODUCTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY STANDS AS A
MAJOR OBSTACLE TO AN AGREED SETTLEMENT. WE THINK
FORMALLY SUGGESTING THIS IDEA TO THE PARTIES AT THIS
STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE PREMATURE AND
LIKELY BE INTERPRETED BY THE FRONTLINE AS A FURTHER
INDICATION OF HMG'S DISILLUSIONMENT WITH ITS OWN PLAN.
BREWSTER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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